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Secretary 2dd

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Honorable Nancy L. Johnson House of Representatives 227 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern that certain cable operators' proposals to discontinue carriage of Connecticut's commercial television stations would violate the 1992 Cable Act.

Pursuant to Congressional mandate, the Commission has adopted must-carry rules (see enclosure) which provide that television stations located in the same Arbitron-assigned Area of Dominant Influence (ADI) as the cable system generally qualify for must-carry status. If a cable system serves communities in more than one county and those counties are assigned to different ADIs. the

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ADI designations will be set for a three-year period designed to coincide with the must-carry/retransmission consent election schedule, but the Commission may add or subtract communities from a broadcast station's television market upon written request. We will consider requests for such market modifications submitted either by a television station or a cable system using the special relief procedures of 47 C.F.R. Section 76.7. We will begin accepting these petitions following the publication of the must-carry/retransmission consent order in the Federal Register. Moreover, as provided in the statute, we will require that the status quo be maintained with respect to a station that is the subject of a petition before us during the pendency of our consideration of the matter.

I trust that the foregoing and the enclosure are informative.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Stewart

Chief, Mass Media Bureau

Enclosure

NANCY L. JOHNSON 6TH DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
HUMAN RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, **BC** 20515-0706

February 23, 1993

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ENFIELD, CT 06082
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961

The Honorable James H. Quello Acting Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Quello:

I am writing to make you aware of my deep concern regarding programming changes proposed by Cablevision of Connecticut and Cablevision of Southern Connecticut.

These cable television systems recently informed several Connecticut television stations, which provide <u>local</u> programming to thousands of viewers, of their intent to stop carrying these stations on their cable systems. The cable systems claim that capacity problems exist and, therefore, they must eliminate "duplicative broadcasts" in order to make room for new "unduplicative broadcasting."

Congress passed the Cable Act in 1992 to regulate the behavior of the cable industry. To address problems in local viewing areas, Congress included language prohibiting cable companies from cancelling broadcaster programing in the broadcaster's local markets. The Cablevision requests violate this directive and would cut off access to several important Connecticut television channels to many Connecticut residents.

Cablevision's intention to create a "Connecticut" channel notwithstanding, I strongly urge you to reject this type of maneuver and look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Nancy J. Johnson

Member of Congress

Secretary

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BENJAMEN L. CARDIN 3D DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS STEERING COMMITTEE

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-2003

February 26, 1993

REPLY TO:
227 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2003
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BALTIMORE, MD 21212
(410) 433-8886

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Mr. James Quello
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Quello:

I am writing you at the request of WHSW-TV in Baltimore, Maryland. It is my understanding that based on language included in the "Cable Television and Consumer Protection and Competition Act" passed by Congress last year, the FCC is currently reviewing the 'Must Carry' status of stations, like WHSW-TV, that primarily broadcast shopping services.

For your information in the process of the FCC review, WHSW-TV on every other Sunday broadcasts a public affairs show that I produce in Washington, "Cardin on Congress". This program is similar to those recorded by many Congresspeople for airing in their home districts. I host each half-hour show and usually have two guests, another Member of Congress and a local expert from Maryland, discussing issues pending before the House of Representatives. I have also been a guest a number of times on the public affairs show, "In your Interest", that WHSW-TV produces and airs in Baltimore.

I hope this information will prove of value to the FCC Commissioners in determining the public interest value of WHSW-TV and other home shopping stations' broadcasts. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Christopher Lynch of my Washington staff, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely

Benjamin L. Cardin Member of Congress

BLC:cwl

cc: Ken Becker, WHSW-TV